



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,225	09/16/2003	Pontus von Bahr	514862000700	3377
20872	7590	05/15/2009		
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP 425 MARKET STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2482			EXAMINER ALEXANDER, LYLE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1797	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/15/2009	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/664,225

**Applicant(s)**

VON BAHR ET AL.

**Examiner**

Lyle A. Alexander

**Art Unit**

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-15, 18-23, 26, 27 and 29-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-15, 18-23, 26-27, 29-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9, 11-15, 18-23, 26-27, 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 is not clear where the flow regulator is placed relative to the inlet, NO scrubber and buffer. Clarification could be achieved by claiming the physical positions of each of the claimed elements. Claim 1 is further confusing because there is only one inlet claimed and the NO scrubber is attached to the inlet. As the invention is best understood, there is a device attached to the NO scrubber where the patient inhales and a second inlet where the patient exhales the NO scrubbed air. Clarification is requested.

Claim 6 is confusing because claim 1 does not claim separate devices for inhalation and exhalation.

Claim 15 is not clear what intended by "adapting to different users."

Claim 19 is not clear how the air sample is temporarily stored in the buffer chamber. Additionally, the claim is not clear what is a "suitable" flow rate.

Claim 29 is not clear what method steps are intended "... flow rate is higher than optimal for the NO sensor."

Claim 31 is not clear how the air sample is temporarily stored in the buffer chamber. Additionally, the claim is not clear what flow rate is intended by "... flow rate is higher than optimal for the NO sensor."

Claims 32-34 are not clear to the physical position of each element.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1,4-9,12-13, 19-22, 26-29, 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Mault et al. (USP 6,468,222).

Mault et al. teach a metabolic calorimeter that measures respirator gases, such as nitric oxide. Columns 1-2 lines 65-teach a flow meter that generates electrical signals as a function of the flow volumes of inhaled and exhaled gases. These signals are transferred to a computation unit to assist in the various calculations. This has been read on the claimed "electronics for verifying the parameters of the inhalation and controlling the parameter of the exhalation." Column 8 lines 28+ teach a temperature sensor(90), ambient pressure sensor(92), and a relative humidity sensor(94). Column 9 lines 44+ teach the ambient temperature, relative humidity, pressure, inhalation/exhalation volumes and gas concentration are all measured. Column 11 lines 36-46 teach storage of the samples in buffers. Column 29 line 52 teaches the use of an electrochemical sensor. Column 30 lines 48-63 teach the use of a scrubber to remove the analyte of interest from the gas being inhaled by the patient prior to exhalation. Column 31 lines 49-53 teach the analyte of interest can be nitric oxide. Column 32

lines 18-39 teach the device communicates with the users with data analysis, display and other types of feedback. This has been read on the claimed "audible or visual feedback."

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 2-3,23 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mault et al.

See Mault et al. supra.

Mault et al. are silent to the claimed air flow rates.

The court decided In re Boesch (205 USPQ 215) that optimization of a result effective variable is ordinarily within the skill of the art. A result effective variable is one that has well known and predictable results. The selection of the rate of a fluid flow through a device is a result effective variable that is dependent upon the volumes of the sample required, the size of the device and the type of sensors. It would have been within the skill of the art to modify Mault et al. and construct the device to have an exhalation air flow of 20-800 ml/s into the buffer chamber, a flow rate of 0.5-15 ml/s to the sensor and a flow rate of 45-55 ml/s to the buffer chamber as optimization of a result effective variable.

Claims 14-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mault et al. in view of Holowko et al.

See Mault et al. supra.

See the appropriate paragraph of the previous Office action for the teachings of Holowko et al.

Mault et al. are silent to the claimed "smart card."

Holowko et al. teach a medical device that uses "smart card" to ensure only the authorized individuals can use the device or access the data. The smart card is further desirable because the patient does not have to re-enter their information each time which will minimize input errors.

It would have been within the skill of the art to further modify Mault et al. in view of Holowko et al. and use a "smart card" to gain the above advantage.

Claims 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mault et al. in view of Birks et al.

See Mault et al. supra.

See the appropriate paragraph of the previous Office action for the teachings of Birks et al.

Mault et al. are silent to the use of a piston to compress or control the volume and pressure of the device.

Birks et al. teach a device that employs a piston to control the volume and pressure in the device. Control of the volume and pressure is desirable because this will optimize the performance of the device and sensor. It would have been within the skill of the art to further modify Mault et al. in view of Birks et al. and use a piston to compress or control the volume and pressure of the device to gain the above advantages.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments, see the remarks, filed 3/3/09, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-9, 11-15, 18-23, 26-27, 29-34 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection has been made above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lyle A. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lyle A Alexander/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797